



# **Traffic.com Speed Sensors on MoDOT Right of Way**

## ***Questions and Answers***

### **Question:**

Recently several poles with solar panel collectors have appeared at various locations on I-170, I-55, I-64, I-44 and Rte. 370. Also on the pole is a rather small box below the panels. What are they used for?

### **Answer:**

These are 58 additional traffic speed sensors that being installed on I-44, I-170, I-64, I-55 and Rte. 370.

### **Question:**

What are these speed sensors used for?

### **Answer:**

These sensors, spaced at every 1 to 1 1/2 miles, give the Gateway Guide Transportation Management Center real-time traffic speeds around the clock. This speed data gives our operators the ability to see the flow of traffic. When the flow of traffic slows when it normally is rolling along, it is a strong indicator that it is due to a crash or other incidents on approximately 68 miles of interstate highway. These traffic sensors also give the DOT historical traffic volume and speed data to use for future transportation planning.

# **Traffic.com Speed Sensors on MoDOT Right of Way**

## ***Questions and Answers***

### **Question:**

Doesn't MoDOT already have sensors on the highways?

### **Answer:**

Yes and No. At this time, there are 42 locations on the interstate highways in the urban area identified to have sensor technology. These detectors are in the process of being replaced and installed where they will cover about 50 miles.

### **Question:**

What's the difference between the two different sensors?

### **Answer:**

What makes these traffic speed sensor devices different from the existing locations installed by MoDOT in the last three years is that these sensors are not owned by the state of Missouri. Traffic.com, a traffic reporting service and information service provider, owns, operates and maintains these sensors.

Through a Federal DOT grant, Traffic.com won the bid to negotiate the placement of these devices on state and federal right of way adjacent to highways. What MoDOT and the roadway users gets is increased good real-time traffic flow information at zero cost. What Traffic.com gets is the ability to gather this information, package it and sell it to traffic reporting services like television, terrestrial radio, satellite radio and the internet. The television and radio stations will, in turn, have actual real-time traffic speeds and travel times to give out to the general public.

These devices are being installed and tested at this time. The data from the traffic sensors will not be available to MoDOT or to television or radio stations until this fall. The objective of this partnership is to increase the availability of good real-time traffic information to regional roadway users, so their travel is safer and more efficient.